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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
STATES RELATIONS SERVICE.

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HOW TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MAY USE
FARMERS' BULLETIN NO. 889, BACKYARD POULTRY
KEEPING.¹

Range for use.—Village and town or other schools where the pupils have little land at home.

Relation to the course of study.—This bulletin will be useful in classes in agriculture and economic nature study. It will be especially helpful in emergency courses in food production.

Topics for study.—A. Fall topics: Selecting the flock (pp. 3-6, and 20); houses and yards (pp. 6-15). B. Winter topics: Economical and effective feeding (pp. 15-19); pests and diseases (pp. 19-20). C. Spring topics: Hatching and raising chickens (p. 20); preserving eggs (pp. 21, 22). A list of other poultry bulletins (p. 23).

Study questions.—(Develop more fully the phases which the pupils may apply in their home projects.) A. What advantages may there be in a small flock of poultry on a town lot? What objections must be overcome? Why are the American breeds preferable for the small home flock? (Farmers' Bulletin 806.) State exceptional cases. Which breeds may be obtained most easily in your vicinity? State reasons for preferring pure breeds. How large a flock might be kept by each pupil on his available space? When and how may the new town flock be best obtained? How best secure advice in selection? (The teacher should find such advisors for the pupils). What houses are available for renovation? What material is available for inexpensive new houses? Discuss in detail only those types of houses which may be needed by pupils at their homes. If old houses are renovated, look up spraying practice (Farmers' Bulletin 480). What general sanitary precautions should be observed? Discuss in detail roosts, nests, litter, etc. Why are yards desirable? What especial value in two yards? How keep the yards sanitary? B. What things are necessary to make a complete ration for the fowls? What household wastes make good poultry food? What other means for keeping the expense low? How provide succulent food in winter? What sources of green food in summer? Animal food is very essential. What sources? Discuss also grit, lime, charcoal, water supply. (See also Farmers' Bulletins 287 and 528.) What harm is done by lice and mites? How prevent these? What treatment is suitable in each case? If poultry diseases occur in pupils' flocks, consult an expert (also see Farmers' Bulletins 530

¹ Teachers desiring a longer course in poultry raising may obtain Department Bulletin 464, Lessons on Poultry for Rural Schools. (Sold at 10 cents a copy by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.)

and 801). Sanitation often obviates need of remedies. C. Has the pupil enough maturity and experience to make it advisable to hatch and rear chicks? Has he the proper place and equipment? Would it be better to get day-old chicks? Have each pupil study with care the methods which will apply in his circumstances. (Consult Farmers' Bulletins 585 and 624.) Eggs are more plentiful in the spring and the price is low. How may they be preserved for a time of scarcity? What cautions? Compute the saving, allowing 2 cents a dozen for cost of preserving.

Illustrative material.—Collect from farm papers and catalogues pictures of fowls of different varieties, diagrams and pictures of houses and equipment. Also find contrast pictures for good and poor practice. Have models made by pupils for later use at home. Make a collection of feeds found on the market and have a small quantity of water glass for examination and demonstration.

Practical exercise.—Have each pupil carry on a home project in poultry (see also Farmers' Bulletin 662, Boys' and Girls' Poultry Clubs.) Study at school only those things which should be applied at home. Have field trips and demonstrations to apply the lessons. Require careful records of time, material, expense, feed, eggs, income, etc., with a report at the end of each phase of the project. Obtain cooperation of county agent and poultry experts for demonstrations of proper methods.

Correlations.—Have the pupils draw plans for their houses, nests, and feed hoppers. In arithmetic compute the bills of material and also keep up their records. Use the project stories as class work in language. Have bulletins of general interest read in class. The subject of feeding may be so correlated with human physiology that the pupils will have a basis for intelligent practice in feeding fowls.

If the pupils conduct a careful inquiry as to the existing conditions in poultry husbandry in the district it will provide a basis for more useful lessons in school. Such a survey may be tabulated under such heads as types and breeds, a poultry-house survey, feeding-practice survey, etc. The compilation of such surveys makes a good correlation. A sample form is suggested, to be modified to meet varied conditions.

Poultry house and management survey.

Name of farmer.	Type of house.	Style of roof.	Style of front.	Fowls per pen.	Number housed.	Area per hen.	Type of floor.	Litter.	Nests.	Yards.
C. Adams....	2 colony...	Shed...	Open...	16-25	125	6 feet...	Gravel.	Straw...	Alt.
Etc.....

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